TEH

SPEECH

OF

Sr George Pudley Kt.

At the Time of his being Sworn

RECORDER

OF THE

City of Oxford

IN

The Council-Chamber of the same City, on Tuesday the Eighth day of *January* 168⅘ where they agreed to the Sealing the Instrumenr sent by his Majesty.

Order'd by Act of Council, that Sir GEORGE PUDLEY Knight, *be desired to Print his Speech.*

BAKER.

DUBLIN
Reprinted at His Majesties Printing House on *Ormonde-Key* 1684.

8. God executeth his Decrees [illegible] of Providence.

[illegible] the Instruments thereof.

The

The Speech of Sir George Pudsey *Knight, at the time of his being sworn* Recorder

GENTLEMEN,

FOrtune has at last gratified me in that earnest Desire I have always had to serve You; And tho' I despair of making due Acknowledgements, yet you may believe, that I am very sensible of the Favour you have done me, in so unanimously chusing me to be your Servant: for such a one your Recorder is: 'tis a place of Honour and of Trust, and if I discharge it not as I ought, or at least as I am able, I am the worst of Men: I value my self much upon it, but more upon your Friendship. Perhaps few Recorders for many ages have been so freely Elected, Therefore Gratitude as well as Oath obliges me to be faithfull to you, Interest also, (a mighty Motive) prompts me to the same; I am your Neighbour as well as fellow Citizen The little Fortune that I have lies near you; if *Oxford* flourish, *Elsfield* will not fare the worse, Gentlemen, I hope you'l have a favourable opinion of him you have made yours, It's no inconsiderable disadvantage to succeed a man of such great abilities as your last Recorder was, a person who lived long amongst you, and knew the secrets of your Corporation; yet this I vow, I'le pray the aid of all the Inns of Court rather than you shall suffer; and indeed why should you in any thing? Have you not opportunities enough to be happy? Does not the Great and Good Earl of *Abingdon* offer his assistance, ready at all times upon his knee to beg his Majesties Favour in your behalf? When he appears, make room for *Oxford*, cries the Guards, the Town is Loyal grown; when at another time if I may speak it) A modest *Oxford* man dare hardly peep in Court. Why then don't we by his vast Interest let in the Beams of Majesty upon us? Who can live without the Sun? Have we not a famous University for our Example? Let her great Loyalty (if it be possible) be outdone by us. Can we be poison'd at the Fountain head? Where is Learning, Piety, and Obedience practis'd if, not in this our English *Athens*? Who so ignorant that does not know how eminent this place has been for Loyalty? How proud it was when *Charles* the First, that Glorious King, shut himself up within our Walls Did not our Citizens follow *Bellona*'s Call, to defend his Sacred person from Rebels fury? Was not this the Seat of War? With what bravery and Gallantry did this City assert its Monarch's Right? Surely the Stock of Loyalty is not worn out How many are there in this place now that liv'd in those days, & plaid the Soldiers part, therefore I'le not think there's an ill man amongst us, however it happens that for some miscarriages of ours we stand not right in *Cæsars* favour: We promise largely, perform poorly, and that with Grudging too. The Widow's mite, what is it? yet being all, and freely given, had the largest thanks. Gentlemen, let me advise you to redeem your selves again: His Majesty, whom the Law stiles Head of the Kingdom, Father of the Country, Master of the whole Family of the Nation, Chief Justice of all England, and a kind of petty God on Earth, who for the excellency of his person, by way of resemblance, has Divine Attributes, as immortality, for as King he never dies, Sovereignty, Majesty, Power, Verity, Justice, & the like: He is merciful, of a God-like temper, as ready to forgive as we to ask, let us think nothing but good of him and his Government, for fears and jealousies have been of fatal consequence to this Nation, and still are the greatest enemies to the peace and tranquility of it, sometimes they cry Popery is a breaking in upon us, when God knows (as it is lately proved) the eight hundredth man is not papist, unless all are such that are not Dissenters from the Church, for so indeed they call us, Did not his Majesty for several years live in Popish soil, yet came over to us as well in Heart as Title, *Defender of the Faith* His Royal Highness, Great *Britains Mars*, its Heir and Glory, has upon all occasions expresst himself high'y in favour of our Church, has settled the

Protestant

teſtant Religion upon ſuch ſure foundations in *Scotland*, that its not to be ſhaken, Are not his Daughters (after him the preſent Heirs to the Imperial Crown) Proteſtants and, married two ſuch Princes, on deſign purely for to ſecure our Religion, when *France* it ſelf courted that aliance for its Heir, Are not the Lords of the Romiſh Faith excluded the *Houſe* of Peers? the Laws ſtrictly put in execution againſt the *Papiſts*? Beſides What alteration can there be in Church or State, without a National conſent? if theſe are ſigns of Popery then indeed we are in danger. What think ye Gentlemen? You are men of Reaſon, live among the Muſes, where Learning is at the height; Though I muſt confeſs, if a papiſt muſt not breath common Air, or tread his Native Earth becauſe he is ſo, tis hard. who does not think his own oppinion beſt? ſometimes again, how do the fears of arbitrary Power, of loſs of Liberty and Property call Crowds together to conſult, who ſhake the Head, look down cry we are loſt, ſad times are coming? when that's the only way to have them come for if a people grow Rebel-ripe, why ſhould not we believe that Kings who ſit at ſtern that pick and cull the Nation for the wiſeſt Heads, ſhould not endeavour to preſerve their Empire, and dominion, as well as quit ſhops and ſtalls and fly to Coffee houſes to examine every Letter, to ſee how things are like to go with us, Gentlemen be not ſeduced by men of ſeditious ſpirits, The firſt ſin of Men and Angels was Rebellion. Heaven and Paradiſe were loſt by it, believe it is the Kings intereſt, as well as Royal inclination to preſerve us in our rights and liberties; for take away property and induſtry is quickly at an end; where is the Crowns ſafety then? the empty travailer laughs at the thief who values his Countrys defence that hath nothing in it which he can call his own? In ſome of the Eaſtern Parts (the Garden of the World by Nature) a man may ride ſome ſcores of Miles, and ſcarcely ſee a Hut; becauſe no man has any thing but at the Princes will; With us the proſperity of the people,, is the Monarchs joy, He always eſteems himſelf Rich, if they are ſo.

Gentlemen, I am not altogether a ſtranger to Hiſtory, can give a reaſonable account of moſt Countryes, amongſt which *England has not an equal*. Let us ſee how matters ſtood with the *Jews* in Righteous *David's* days? Thou and *Ziba* divide the Land was *David's* judgment: againſt his Maſters Son before his offence was prov'd. A Semeter or a Bowſtring Leaves breathleſs in a minute the greateſt Subject in three parts of the *World*, without a Judge and Jury. In our Neighbouring Countries, *Racks* & *Wheels* are thought gentle eaſie ways to find out truth. the *French* Kings Sword is his Subjects Charter, The *Spaniſh* Inquiſition this *Worlds Hell*. In *Holland* it ſelf, that fam'd Common wealth, Herring is *Excited* nine times before it's eat, yet in theſe places all hush, and ſtill; No *Plots* to murder Kings, or Magiſtrates. Gentlemen, you muſt pardon me, if I tell ye, that many times the too great indulgence of a Prince brings ſpeedy ruine to a Nation. *Plutarch* in the Life of *Lycurgus* gives us a Relation of one *Eurytion* a *Spartan* King, who took a courſe never practis'd by his wiſe Predeceſſors, which was to *cajole* his own Subjects by ſlackening the Reins of the Royal Authority; but ſee what follow'd, inſtead of gaining upon them, they grew ſo inſolent, that at laſt they brought the Government into contempt, and ſoon after the whole Kingdom into Anarchy and confuſion, and were never ſatisfied, till one of their beſt Princes, was barbarouſly murder'd in the ſtreets by the Rabble, as he was appeaſing a Tumult; How near a Parallel is this to his late Majeſty, who I'le boldly ſay has done more, except the preſent King, to endear the Subject then all the Kings from the *Norman* to this time, beſides; but what come on't? That's a Melancholy conſideration. Mercy and Goodneſs in Princes are too often miſtaken, and call'd neceſſity and eaſineſs of Nature: An yielding King ſhall always find a craving Subject, We are like the *Iſraelits* never ſatisfi'd deſire to return back into *Egypt* into our old Bondage. I have heard, that in the late Rebellion, a Captain and his Company has made *London*, that haughty Miſtreſs of our Iſle, whom we ſo much delight to emitate all in tears, her Citizens Crouching like Spaniels at the frown of a Traytor, when at the ſame time they bid defiance to their King.

Are not we turn'd Mad men and the Devil fool, his invention is loſt, muſt a Nation be deſtroy'd, 'twice in half an age by the very ſame methods; A Juglers tricks if ſhown more than once or twice becomes Childrens ſport, *Popery* was the Topick

amongſt

8. God executeth his Decree, [illegible] vidence.

[illegible] ment thereof.

amongſt the Zealous e're ſince I remember, and is now the only Idol that ſupports the Brethrens cauſe: if the word were but forgotten they were Dumb, its the holding twig. Who would not have ſworn three years ſince that the Popes Bull was not broken in amongſt us? No Popery, No Papiſt, were the *Oxford* Cryes, when, on my conſcience, the promoters of the Noiſe are nearer that perſwaſion than my ſelf; the man they aim'd at. Do they not ſay that Kings are the peoples Creatures, made by them, and when the Spirit moves, may be laid aſide again? Our Church abhors ſuch Doctrine, lets hold to that, *Julian* that cunning arch Enemy of our Religion encourag'd all Opinions and Sects amongſt the Chriſtians, that tende to the rooting out of our Faith. For ſhame let's grow wiſe, we are in ſafety (if there be ſuch a thing on this ſide Heaven.) Let the moſt factious fellow of e'm all tell me whats not done to ſecure the Subject? He is fene'd in on every ſide, the Star, Chamber, Court of Wards, High commiſſion court, and every thing which the people had the leaſt colour to call grievous, are willingly laid aſide. What noiſe has quartering of ſouldiers made? How are the Law booke filli'd with caſes of Impriſonments? To eaſe us of theſe fears too, ther's not a ſouldier looks into a Private houſe, or enters any Inn, but as a Traviller; the Landlord makes the Bill; what Offender is not bail'd out of Priſon in ſuch a time, if not proſecuted, though Treaſon threw him in? if ſuch Acts of Grace as theſe will not give us grateful ſouls, or at leaſt keep us in quiet, nothing but a rod of iron will. Will there be no peace till *Shebah*'s head is thrown over the *wall.* Gentlemen, I could waſt a day upon this ſubject, and *challenge all the World* to ſhew me ſuch another Government; therefore if theſe be ſigns of Arbitrary power, of loſs of Liberty and property, ſpeak, Gentlemen, be not ſilent. Good men will be convinc'd by reaſon, and bleſs their Maker for their happineſs; Ill men muſt be watch'd by thoſe that are in Power: He that grumbles at this Government, with *Lucifer* would quarrel Heaven, therefore with him deſerves his puniſhment But ſuppoſe the worſt, that our fears were true, that Religion and Allegiance did no ways oblige us, that his Majeſty had as many vices as he has vertues, would Rebelion mend the matter? No, that a Nation's Ruin is ready to atteſt. Has not that happened to us and much more, which fooliſh *Rehoboam* threatened the ten Tribes with, that his little finger ſhould be heavier upon them than his Father's Loyns; that if his Father whipp'd them with rods he would beat them with Scorpions? Gentlemen, a civil War is like a Gaming houſe where none gets at laſt but the Box keeper. Not long after his Majeſties return I was at ſuch a place at a time when a great Lord had loſt no little ſumm; to chear his Heart, he calls for a glaſs of Wine, and drinks a health to him that had gain'd by play; amongſt fifty Gentlemen there was not one would lay any title to it at laſt in comes a litle creeping fellow, and claimes the health, proteſting that he had never brought in to the houſe more than half a Crown at any one time, ſeldom ſo much, yet by his cunning and advantages had heap'd many a hundred pound; ſo in Civil War the Beggar mounts a horſeback, and all above him goe a foot; Coblers and Tinkers turn Lords, and Lords turn nothing, If Rebellion has ſucceſs. which to the diſcouragement of all Treaſon (it has had but once this ſix hundred years in *England*) to change it's Government, yet the leading Rebels very rarely dye in Peace. If the Prince be victorious, which certainly he is, unleſs when the Almighty intends to call the Nation to reckoning for her ſins, then the People are at mercy. Which of us would willingly call an Equal or an inferiour, Lord? Where were our *Engliſh* Liberty then? Therefore ſince all cannot be Kings, let's be obedient to him that is the beſt of Kings, think Loyalty our greateſt intereſt as wel as duty; Gentlemen Conſider we have watchfull Eyes over us, Eſteem not them good Citizens who adviſe us to wraſtle too much with Majeſty, for we ſhall have the fall. Why then all ſay with me Long live the King, we'le grant him any thing that he will have, becauſe we are ſufficiently aſſur'd, he will ask nothing but what we may freely, and ſafely give

FINIS